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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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FURTHER COMMENT ON THE REPORTED REVOLUTIONARY PLOT IN SURINAM

25X1

Reports in June of a possible uprising in Dutch-controlled Surinam were misleading and greatly exaggerated.

25X1

The Commander of the Dutch military forces in Surinam, Lt. Col. Boer, had apparently put together a series of facts, rumors, and speculations and concluded that an attempt at revolt was imminent. He now admits that his report to the American consul was based on the dissatisfaction of certain delegates returning from the Round Table Conference at The Hague, on his own general distrust of one of the delegates, and on unsubstantiated reports of arms smuggling brought in by his new and untested intelligence net. His statement that 60 percent of the 248 native police are unreliable was intended to mean that he considers them opportunistic. Boer commands approximately 600 soldiers and marines, all but 12 of whom are considered loyal. He is not now worried by the possibility of a revolt and states that he will know of and confiscate any arms smuggled into the country for use against the government.

One of the key facts on which the picture of a revolt was built -- the failure of the Round Table Conference -- does offer the possibility of future unrest in Surinam. However, only two of the returned delegates appear to have the inclination and ability to exploit the situation. These two, D.G.A. Findlay, known as the "uncrowned king of Surinam," and Johan Pengel, a conspicuous figure in labor, press, and parliamentary circles, have thus far had virtually no success in arousing the general public or influencing other important public figures, but they can be expected to continue their efforts. Pengel controls one of the colony's two labor confederations and his growing following there is described as somewhat fanatic.

Most responsible business and political leaders in Surinam want a "better deal" from the Dutch, but not complete freedom at this time. The Netherlands West Indies, which include the important oil refinery islands of Aruba and Curacao are even less antagonized by Dutch control and show no inclination to present a united front with discontented elements in Surinam.

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State Dept. review completed

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